

WAUKESHA COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION

February 12, 2013

In Attendance:

Matthew Aslesen, DOT Bureau Of Transportation Safety
Michael Grulke, Traffic Engineer; Highway Commissioner Representative
Police Specialist Steven Kraus; City of Waukesha Police Department Representative
Ms. Andrea Loeffelholz; U.W.-Madison, Transportation Information Center
Lieutenant Paul Renkas; Chairman, Traffic Safety Coordinator
Kathleen Roe; Education Representative
Sergeant Steve Rudie; Menomonee Falls Police Department Representative
Sergeant Mark Tushaus; City of Brookfield Police Department

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Traffic Safety Commission Chairman Lieutenant Paul Renkas at 2:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Sergeant Mark Tushaus, from the City of Brookfield Police Department, made a motion to approve the minutes; and, Police Specialist Steven Kraus, from the City of Waukesha Police Department, seconded the motion. The minutes were then approved.

PARTICIPATION FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Chairman Lieutenant Paul Renkas started a discussion for gaining more participation at future Traffic Safety Commission meetings. He spoke to Captain Larsuel, of the Waukesha Sheriff's Department, who is a liaison between department contracts, and asked her if she could advertise the meetings, and if there are any highway safety concerns or issues, to come to the meetings to try to get more participation.

Kathleen Roe, Education Representative, did create a list of various Waukesha County newspapers in the area where possible meeting notices could be placed. Some of the newspapers listed were: 50 Plus News Magazine, Elm Grove Leaves, Kettle Moraine Index, Lake Country Reporter, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Mukwonago Chief, Oconomowoc Focus, On Wisconsin Outdoors, Sussex Sun, Waukesha Freeman, Waukesha Now, and Wisconsin Woman's Magazine. Some other suggestions for adding to the list included the Patch Newspapers and Now Newspapers. Kathleen Roe has invited a Wisconsin Driver's Ed representative and also the southeastern representative for Driver's Ed, who indicated they would be interested in coming to future meetings.

Lieutenant Renkas suggested school bus companies could be invited to generate more participation in future meetings. School bus companies around the area include Dairyland Buses in Waukesha, Hanks Transportation in Mukwonago, Dousman Transport for Kettle Moraine, and First Student Bus Company in Brookfield. Lieutenant Renkas stated he will contact Dousman Transport and Sergeant Tushaus will contact First Student Bus Company to see if they would be interested in participating.

PARTICIPATION FOR FUTURE MEETINGS CONTINUED

Michael Grulke stated the City of New Berlin has their own traffic safety meeting every month. The last two meetings have been concerned with bus-related safety issues. An example was discussed regarding a four lane roadway, with a divided median, with curb and gutter; however, when the bus slows down to stop to drop a student off, they cannot get the drivers in the outside lane going in the same direction to also stop for the bus, which brought up the question, "Does the busing industry have any tools that they can use to force people to stop?" Sergeant Tushaus stated they had a similar situation. They work closely with their area bus company, and there are very few pick-ups on those highways. They also have re-routed the bus. Sergeant Tushaus suggested speaking to the local traffic engineers or state highway engineers regarding additional signage. Michael Grulke stated signs are only marginally successful. Sergeant Tushaus suggested inviting bus company managers to a specific Traffic Safety Commission meeting and to put on the agenda a discussion regarding any traffic related school bus issues. Perhaps they could be invited to the next meeting (05-14-13), informing them that the school year is coming to an end, and asking what type of issues they have had this last year. Kathleen Roe stated she would contact Hanks' Transportation. Matthew Aslesen stated he would contact the Department Of Transportation safety representative.

Michael Grulke stated the Federal laws for signing of school zones have changed a few years ago, and they gave a period of time for municipalities to start upgrading their signing. One upcoming project is to re-sign about thirty school zones around Waukesha County. He stated perhaps the committee could provide information to the public as to why the school zone signs are changing. The fluorescent yellow-green is now the new standard for any school zone signs. The state has also issued a standard to follow regarding "School Zone Ahead" signs which are now also going to state "Fines Higher", and also adding "End School Zone" signs. Additional questions could also be addressed to Mitzi Dobersek, who is with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. Kathleen Roe stated that could be brought up in newspapers as a "Hint of The Month". Matthew Aslesen stated he could also help in addressing what state statutes lay out for what the committee can do for various citizens' concerns, and the citizens will then in return know what they can ask for from the commission.

Sergeant Tushaus suggested each person on the committee be assigned a few agencies in the county to personally contact reference traffic safety issues and attendance at future meetings. Agendas have been sent quarterly to all police chiefs before each meeting as a reminder. Police Specialist Steven Kraus stated he could provide a list of municipalities. Michael Grulke stated more participation to include additional information sharing would make the meetings more functional. Sergeant Tushaus stated he will be re-contacting New Berlin again to see if they would be interested in attending meetings. Matthew Aslesen will be contacting State Patrol to see if they will be representing future meetings. Lieutenant Renkas stated municipalities should be contacted personally to ask for their participation in meetings. Andrea Loeffelholz will check with the Wisconsin Traffic Safety Officer's Association. She will also contact Lisa Simpson from "Safe Kids" to be put on the contact list. Sergeant Tushaus also suggested to have a representative in grants programs attending for any questions or concerns reference grants. Matthew Aslesen will be checking into a possible presentation on grants for different municipalities. Lieutenant Renkas will be contacting the media, and members of the commission will be contacting different bus companies reference an invitation to the next meeting on 05-14-13, which will have the topics of "Safety Concerns with School Buses" and "Applying for Grants". The members will then send an e-mail to Lieutenant Renkas within 30 days with any information on their follow-up.

COMMUNITY MAPS PRESENTATION

Andrea Loeffelholz, Outreach Specialist from the University of Wisconsin - Madison, Transportation Information Center, presented "Community Maps" which provides Wisconsin's local law enforcement and Traffic Safety Commissions with an on-line interface for visualizing and mapping crash data. The Bureau of Transportation is contracting with the University of Wisconsin Transportation Unit to assist with having Traffic Safety Commissions evaluate their crash data. The Wisconsin TransPortal site is the web application link to Community Maps. Three data analysis tools to be used by Traffic Safety Commissions are the Motor Vehicle MV4000 reports, Community Maps, and the Crash Calendar. Law enforcement municipalities would take responsibility and provide accurate data by plotting exactly where their crashes are occurring and adding other pertinent basic information. From that data, the Traffic Safety Commission meetings can then provide a spot map at their meetings of where fatalities have occurred within the county. Local law enforcement should then be represented at each meeting, and MV4000's should be brought along to reference. Joni Graves would be the contact person to work with individual law enforcement agencies to enter the crash data. An e-mail will be sent out to law enforcement agencies to set up informational meetings.

TRAFFIC SAFETY LEGISLATION REPORT

Matthew Aslesen stated the Alcohol/Legislative Task Force Committee at the state level has been advocating for new legislation surrounding Ignition Interlock Devices. The current law makes it very difficult to enforce.

He also passed out information on Total Wisconsin Traffic Fatalities by Date; Year-to-Date Traffic Deaths and Fatal Crashes; Fatalities by County; February Law of the Month – State law prohibits cell phone use while driving for many teens; and January Law of the Month - Move Over Law: Drivers must provide a safety zone for stopped law enforcement and other emergency vehicles. Lieutenant Renkas asked if the information packet could be sent electronically through e-mails, so it could be given to deputies working the traffic grants, etc. Matthew Aslesen stated that 2012 was the most deadly year in Wisconsin for the past five years, specifically the month of September. Also there was a 36 percent increase in passenger fatalities. He also recommended that the committee have a representative from the District Attorney's Office attending the meetings concerning traffic laws, which then could also be a topic for a future meeting. Lieutenant Renkas asked for statistics on what the average BAC is for Waukesha County and/or the State of Wisconsin. Matthew Aslesen stated he would check on that.

COMMISSION MEMBER REPORTS

❖ City of Brookfield Police Department

Sergeant Tushaus handed out several articles including e-mails referencing the Southeast Wisconsin High-Visibility Enforcement OWI Task Force and upcoming Deployment Dates, Vision, and Goals; HVE Grant Activity Sheets; and Minutes from the last meeting. The Task Force coordinated efforts to simplify and re-organize. Lieutenant Tim Sharpee, from the Wauwatosa Police Department, invited departments from southeastern Wisconsin who were participating, and decided to use their own funds independently from the Bureau of Transportation Safety, but put together resources and try to deploy on the same times and dates. They are then divided into different quadrants trying to get more agencies involved. If anyone is interested, the next meeting will be held on 04-24-13, at 2:00 p.m., at the Wauwatosa Police Department. Sergeant Tushaus will be sending out a reminder e-mail before the meeting date.

COMMISSION MEMBER REPORTS CONTINUED❖ **Education**

Kathleen Roe received many complaints from citizens in Mukwonago on how Highway 83 was plowed in the last snow storm. She stated the left turn lanes were not plowed very well.

She also received complaints from citizens on lack of information regarding roundabouts to older senior citizens. They are having trouble maneuvering the roundabouts in Waukesha County. Possibly this could be a topic for a future meeting, or a presentation could be made to senior centers.

HIGH CRASH LOCATIONS / FATALS

➡ Chairman Lieutenant Paul Renkas reported that the Waukesha Sheriff's Department had four fatalities, as follows:

● **Date of Accident: 12-14-12**

Location: Ryan Road/CTH KF, 841 feet north of Lynndale Road/CTH JK

A 24-year old driver and his 23-year-old passenger were fatalities in a 2013 Mitsubishi Eclipse that lost control, went to the right and hit the stone/gravel portion of the roadway, came back, over-corrected, slid sideways into a ditch, flipping onto the passenger side. The vehicle eventually struck a tree. Alcohol was a factor in the accident.

NEXT QUARTERLY MEETING SCHEDULED

The next meeting of the Waukesha County Traffic Safety Commission is scheduled for Tuesday, May 14, 2013, at 2:00 p.m., at the City of Waukesha Police Department. The topics for that meeting will be: "School Bus Safety" and "Grants". Dates of future 2013 meetings are: August 13, 2013 and November 12, 2013.

ADJOURNMENT

Sergeant Steve Rudie, from the Village of Menomonee Falls Police Department, made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Sergeant Mark Tushaus, from the City of Brookfield Police Department. The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Gregesich
Waukesha County Sheriff's Department

(MINUTES APPROVED ON 05-14-13)